



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Founded in 1931

JANUARY MEETING: CONNECTING TELEPHONES, DEVELOPMENT OF MANUAL AND AUTOMATED SWITCHBOARDS

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Back at the December 2020 RARA meeting, I gave a presentation on the invention and development of the telephone. I stopped at the point where switchboards were becoming a requirement and said I could follow up with a talk on the development of the switchboard and subsequent automation if anybody was interested. Well, a few people said they were, but it has taken me this long to get round to putting it together!

I plan to cover the introduction of the manual exchange and then look at how and why these were then automated. I will cover the mechanical exchanges which were the dominant systems for most of the 20th century but will be leaving the development of electronic exchanges to a later talk. I'm also not covering cell phones so if either of these topics appeal to you as a presenter please get in touch! I think both would be of interest.

Please join us on January 8th, NOT JANUARY 1st, we will let you enjoy New Years Day! The meeting starts at 7:00PM at the Boy Scouts Headquarters at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, New York 14623 or online by registering at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4296809421972006233>.



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K2JD

N2EH

W2EOC

BOARDZ BUZZ

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, RARA SECRETARY

Volunteer Your Time, Enhance Our Community

During the recent Pumpkin Patrol Ed, K1EM was not able to fill every needed slot. There is also a belief by some board members that we do not have enough participants or activity leaders to provide desired value program for the club members. RARA is not so much limited by lack of financial resources as we are people. See the December Board Buzz for a description of this need.

Why Volunteer with the Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA)?

As a member of RARA, you have the opportunity to make a significant impact on our hobby. By volunteering your time and skills, you can help us fulfill our mission of promoting scientific education, fostering camaraderie, and providing essential communication services.

Here are just a few ways you can get involved:

- **Emergency Communications:** Join the [MCARES](#) emergency communications team and be ready to assist during natural disasters or other crises.
- **Public Service Events:** Volunteer to provide communications support for local events like charity runs, bike races, or community festivals.
- **Education and Outreach:** Share your knowledge and enthusiasm for amateur radio by teaching classes, mentoring new hams, or participating in public outreach events.
- **Club Activities:** Help organize and run club meetings, Hamfest Slots, field days, and other social events.
- **Technical Support:** Assist with maintaining our club's equipment and infrastructure.

The Benefits of Volunteering

Volunteering with RARA offers a wide range of benefits, including:

- **Personal Fulfillment:** Knowing that you're making a difference in your community can be incredibly rewarding.
- **Skill Development:** Volunteer work can help you develop new skills, such as leadership, problem-solving, and communication.

- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with like-minded individuals and expand your professional and social network.
- **Community Impact:** Contribute to a better community by supporting local initiatives and causes.

Ready to Get Started?

If you're interested in volunteering with RARA, please speak with a board member, contact us at [RARA Groups.io](https://rara.groups.io), or visit [our website](#) for more information. Together, we can make a positive impact on our community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY JAN 8, 2025 - RARA Meeting In Person and On line 7:00 PM - at this link:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4296809421972006233>

THURSDAY JAN 8, 2025 - RARA Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM - Online
Email request for link to secretary@rochesterham.org

Saturday Feb 15, 2025 - RARA Winterfest
Stewart Lodge at Mendon Ponds Park
See article on page 9

RARA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership currently stands at 396 and we would like to beat our total of 503 at the end of the previous year so please renew if you haven't done so yet! Any members who have not renewed by Dec 31st will lose any membership points they have accumulated.

If you are not sure of your membership status please take a moment to go to the [renewal page](#) on our website to check that your membership hasn't lapsed, and if it has done you can renew from there. You can also join if you are not yet a member. The dues are still only \$15 or \$10 if you are an senior member or an Associate (I.e. have not yet got your license) Thanks again to all those who have renewed!

I'd like to give a warm welcome to recent new members:

Tyler Monroe
Ryan Wood, KQ4BTB

Remember to look out for new members at RARA events and make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club!

Membership Points System

I get asked from time to time about our membership awards process. Basically we award points to members who contribute to club activities by joining in a public service event, presenting at meetings, writing an article for the Rag or taking on an administrative role.

Task	Points Earned
Give a presentation	30
Public Service Event Leader	15
Public Service Event Participant	5 to 10
Licensing class instructor	30
VE Testing team member	5 per session
Special Event Leader	15
Special Event Volunteer	5 to 10
Hamfest Volunteer	5 to 10

If you are awarded points you will be given an opportunity to use them when you renew. You can also use points for other club expenditures such as banquet booking, etc. If you have enough points you can even trade them in for a gift voucher with DX Engineering or Ham Radio Outlet (HRO). For further information check the [membership awards page](#) on our website. Alternatively, as always, you can email me at the address below.

Tim Barrett, K9VB membership@rochesterham.org.





EDUCATION

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, Education Coordinator

RARA LICENSE COURSES

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, License Class Coordinator

License Classes

It's that time of the year again: We are looking for students for our Winter license classes: We will start our next sessions in January. If you are interested in getting your Technician license, or would like to upgrade to General or Amateur Extra, we can help you to get there. If you know anybody who might be interested in earning their first ham radio license, tell them about our license class program, and if you are wrapping a new HT as a present for somebody, put a reference to our license class program into the box :)

New Amateur Extra Question Pool

Since July 1st 2024, all Amateur Extra license exams are now using the new question pool, which means that you need the 13th edition of the ARRL License Manual to study for the test. Make sure you have the correct edition.

License Manuals

All current editions of the license manuals are available to our members at a discount for \$25. At this discount, we unfortunately cannot deliver, and you would have to pick up the manual. If you are interested, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org

I usually have some license manuals with me at official RARA events (e.g. the monthly meetings).

RARA ELMERS' CORNER

Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ

Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ

Elmers' Corner Coordinators

Wow did we have a great zoom session in December! We a great turn out and had some new members and new hams join us. We talked about many different topics, including APRS, exposure level safety, history of callsigns and much more.

If you would like to watch our last session, or any session of the Elmers' Corner, please contact me and I will send you the link.

Join us and talk ham radio at our next zoom session, January 4th, get answers to all of those burning questions you have, and have a great time. The meeting starts at 10am on zoom, the link is below, however, if you would like to get on my reminder email list, send me a quick note at:

elmerscorner@rochesterham.org.

I don't send a lot of emails, just one a month reminding you about the zoom meeting, and I always provide the link so you have it one place.

If you are a new ham, or just getting back into the hobby, we are here to help. We've even helped experienced hams with questions. ALL are welcome! Sometimes a question may require some background information, just email those questions to us ahead of the meeting so that we can prepare:

elmerscorner@rochesterham.org



ELMERS' CORNER

1st Saturday of the month
September – May

Next Zoom Meetings:

January 4th **10AM-12PM**

February 1st

March 1st

Join ELMERS' CORNER Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09>

Meeting ID: 834 8467 4667

Passcode: 786545

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (New York)

+13126266799,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kiOoVkCMY>

MORSE CODE TRAINING

Dave Wilson, WA2HOY, RXCWG Coordinator

The RXCW Group assists Hams wanting to learn Morse Code or to develop their CW skills.

MORSE PRACTICE FOR ALL LEVELS ON ZOOM AND ON THE AIR

Tim Brown, WB2PAY, hosts Zoom code practice for all levels on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. For On Air schedules contact Tim at tjbrown@rochester.rr.com

RXCWG INTERMEDIATE CW PRACTICE- 7:30pm Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWVl0RjRLYXlhc3pOUT09)

[pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWVl0RjRLYXlhc3pOUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWVl0RjRLYXlhc3pOUT09)

Meeting ID: 799 6621 2852

Passcode: tpjz8e

W1AW On The Air CW Practice

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9 AM		Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
4 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast
7 PM	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
10 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast

<http://www.arri.org/w1aw->

SLOW - 5, 7 1/2, 10, 13 and 15 wpm

FAST - 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm

FREQ(MHz) - 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, 147.555

RADIO ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Dave Carlson	N2OA	Batavia	kdcarlso@gmail.com
Lawrence Hill	N2AJX	Henrietta	lawrence.hill@rit.edu
Rich Hoffarth	K2AXP		rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com
Bill Kasperkoski	WB2SXY	Pittsford	wb2sxy@gmail.com
Don Kiser	AC2EV	N Greece	dkiser100@gmail.com
Karl Heinz Kremer	K5KHK	Chili	k5khk@khk.net
Tim Magee	WB2KAO	Greece	585-704-5747
Mike Moore	KC2NM		mikemoore@ieee.org
Peter Schuch	WB2UAQ	Perinton	pschuch@rochester.rr.com
Forest Shick	WA2MZG	Webster	fshick3@gmail.com
Dave Timmons	W2DST	N Greece	dstimmons@gmail.com
Steve Verzulli	KA1CNF		verzulli@yahoo.com
Dan Waterstraat	W2DEW	Henrietta	higreen@rochester.rr.com

CW ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Ned Asam	W2NED	Pittsford	w2ned@frontiernet.net
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Pete Fournia	W2SKY	Penfield	pfournia@gmail.com
Bill Hopkins	AA2YV	Brighton	whopkin4@naz.edu
Bob Karz	K2OID	Webster	rkarz@rochester.rr.com
Joe Rowe	AG2Y	Webster	ag2y@rochester.rr.com
Harry Williams	KF2TV	Kingsland, GA	harryw7872@gmail.com

JANUARY RAFFLE PRIZES

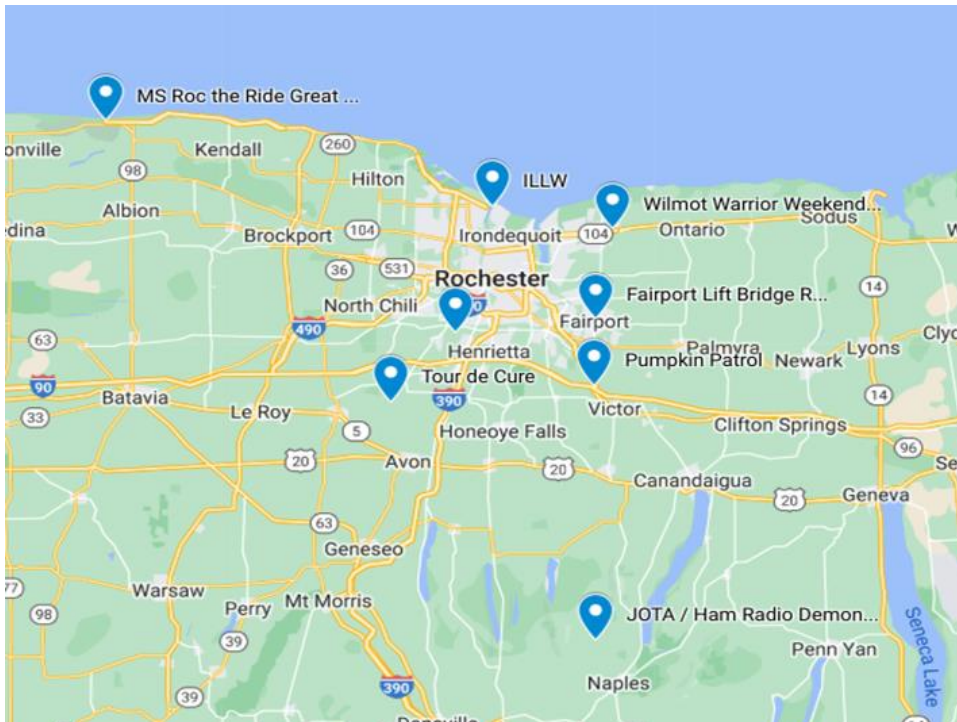
- STOW-IT WRAP TIES
- BONGO TIES
- WORLD MAP
- HAM RADIO DESK PAD
- DX FIELD REFERENCE

PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

Planning for the Public Service Event Season

With the start of the new year, it is time to start planning for the upcoming Public Service Event Season. We currently have eight events, and each of the events will be held based at the map location shown below.



I will contact the served agency representative to verify the dates and confirm the event locations. I will verify the RARA event captain's service and recruit event captains. The responsibilities of the event captain are to recruit hams to work the event, agree on the relationships with the served agency on the memorandum of understanding (MOU), define repeater usages, maintain contact lists, and work with the served agency event team. We have a significant history defined for our events, so much of the team captain's work will be based on what has been done in the past. Please contact me if you want information about the event team captain job.

Three of our events are fundraisers for the American Diabetes Association, Wilmot Cancer Center, and Multiple Sclerosis Society, representing a \$1.25M fundraising budget. RARA and Ham Radio will greatly impact the curing of these diseases and help improve the lives of people in our community suffering from them.

Upcoming events in the public service calendar are listed in the following table. Visit https://rochesterham.org/public_service.htm for more information and to volunteer.

2025 RARA January List of Public Service Events

Event	Location	Day	Date
Tour de Cure	Stokoe Farms	Saturday	Jun. 7
MS Roc the Ride Great Lakes	Lakeside State Park	Saturday	Aug. 9
ILLW	Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse	Saturday - Sunday	Aug. 16, 17
Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta (Tentative)	Canal, Fairport	Saturday	Sept. 20
Wilmot Warrior Weekend (Tentative)	Xerox Campus Webster	Sunday	Sept. 21
JOTA / Ham Radio Demonstration - CTC (Tentative)	Camp Cutler, Naples, NY	Saturday	Oct. 18
Pumpkin Patrol	Overpasses of the New York State Thruway	Thursday - Friday	Oct. 30, 31
Maker Faire (Tentative)	Gordon Field House RIT	Saturday	Nov. 15

DECEMBER MEETING REVIEW: FREQUENCY MEASUREMENT PAST AND PRESENT

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

We started as always by President Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ and others taking us through news and updates about the club. Meeting audio was handled by the capable team of Tim Guyot, KB1POP, Joe DiVincenzo AD2DB and Scott Czeck, KC1GHT. In the intermission, refreshments were organized by Rich Hoffarth, K2AXB and raffle ticket sales were handled by Forest Shick, WA2MZG. Thanks to all of these people and others who help to make our meetings interesting and run smoothly!

Our thanks also go to our speaker Dave Hunter, N2EZY from SIARC for a great presentation. The subject was 'how do I know what frequency I'm on?' and covered methods used from the 1920s onward. Dave had brought several examples of frequency measuring equipment, including a nice BC221 frequency meter from WW2 days. There was a lot of interest in the presentation and many questions which Dave covered well and made the meeting a great success.



Attendance was good, both in person and online, I look forward to many more interesting presentations in the coming year!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE RA RA WINTERFEST!

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RA RA VICE PRESIDENT

It's getting to the time for our annual Winterfest. This year we are back at our traditional location, Stewart Lodge at Mendon Ponds Park on Saturday February 15th. We start set-up at 10am ready to get going around 11am. It's a great location, the cabin is heated and warm, and there is plenty of space for antennas.

As usual we will have door prizes and lots of food. If you can, please bring a crockpot of something warm, we will award a prize for the best contribution! We are also inviting everyone to bring a dessert to share. Even if you don't have an opportunity to make something please come along anyway, the more the merrier. RA RA will provide soft drinks and all the cups, plates, napkins and silverware needed.

We will have the club radio set up but feel free to bring your own gear. And if you are a newly licensed radio amateur this is a great time to meet other hams and to get on the air yourself.

If you would like to help set up, then arrive around 10am otherwise we look forward to seeing you at 11 for food, friends and amateur radio!



RARa CALENDAR

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARa VICE PRESIDENT

January 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7pm SARTG RTTY New Yr Contest AGCW New Yr Contest AGCW VHF/UHF Contest A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon QRP	2 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB NRAU 10m Activity Contest NCCC FT4 Sprint SKCC Sprint (Europe) Weekly RTTY Test QRP Foxhunt	3 K1USN Speed Test	4 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm ARRL Kids Day PODXS 070 Club PSKFest Marconi ARI Loano QSO Party SKCC Sprint Europe WW PMC Contest RSGB AFS Contest, CW EUCW 160M Contest ARRL RTTY Roundup
5 WW PMC Contest EUCW 160M Contest ARRL RTTY Roundup K1USN Speed Test	6 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	7 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt	8 RARa Mtg BSA & ONLINE 7pm A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	9 RARa BoD Mtg 6:30pm NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint QRP Foxhunt	10 K1USN Speed Test	11 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm YB DX Contest UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest NA QSO Party, CW SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
12 UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest NA QSO Party, CW SKCC Weekend Sprintathon NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB, CW DARC 10-Meter Contest RSGB AFS Contest, Data	13 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	14 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt	15 AWA Linc Cundall CW Contest A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 NAQCC CW Sprint Walk for the Bacon QRP	16 AWA Linc Cundall CW Contest NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint QRP Foxhunt NTC QSO Party Walk for the Bacon QRP	17 K1USN Speed Test	18 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm AWA Linc Cundall CW Contest ARRL January VHF Contest Hungarian DX Contest RSGB AFS Contest, SSB North American QSO Party, SSB PRO Digi Contest Feld Hell Sprint NA Collegiate Champ, SSB
19 AWA Linc Cundall CW C'test ARRL January VHF Contest Hungarian DX Contest RSGB AFS Contest, SSB North American QSO Party,SSB PRO Digi Contest Feld Hell Sprint Run for the Bacon QRP Sprint NA Collegiate Champ, SSB	20 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	21 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt SKCC Sprint	22 A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 NAQCC CW Sprint	23 NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint QRP Foxhunt	24 K1USN Speed Test	25 ROC City Net 28.405 MHz, 9pm CQ 160M Contest, CW REF Contest, CW UBA DX Contest, SSB Winter Field Day BARTG RTTY Sprint Australia Day Contest
26 CQ 160M Contest, CW REF Contest, CW UBA DX Contest, SSB Winter Field Day BARTG RTTY Sprint Australia Day Contest	27 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	28 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt QCX Challenge	29 A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	30 NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint QRP Foxhunt	31 K1USN Speed Test	

JANUARY IS STRAIGHT KEY MONTH

KARL HEINZ KREMER, K5KHK, DIRECTOR AND EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Sometimes it's hard to figure out when to do certain things – like what are you supposed to do in months that have an “r” in their name? With your straight key, it's pretty easy: Every month is a good month to practice and use your straight key. However, January is a little different: One month out of the year, we get some incentives to give those paddles a rest and pick up a straight key – the original and still the most natural way to generate Morse code. There are two events that promote the use of these keys:

Straight Key Night

It's time again to polish and adjust those brass straight keys and bugs to get ready for the Straight Key Night (SKN) on New Year's Day (UTC, which means you can get quite a bit of operating in before the ball drops at midnight). Details about this operating event can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

Keep in mind that this is not a contest, so stop and smell the 3-in-1 oil you used to lubricate that key and spend a bit more time on your contacts than the quick exchange of just the bare minimum of what's required to log the QSO. This is about appreciating mechanically produced CW. And yes, we don't all have perfect fists, but that's what makes the straight key so interesting.

SKCC K3Y Event

We are not done yet using our straight key (or bugs or cooties): Keep that key ready, because the remainder of January is the Straight Key Century Club's (SKCC) anniversary event with the K3Y special event call being on the air from all ten US calling areas, plus KH6, KL7 and KP4. There will also be several associated DX stations from six IARU continental regions and of course, Canadian stations participating in the event. The plan is to have all 50 states participate in using the K3Y call sign. If you need to fill in some states for your CW WAS, this is a good opportunity.

You can keep track of your progress by using the SKCCLogger program (see the SKCC web page for more information). And, after the event, there is of course a QSL card that will list all the areas you were able to contact. To learn more about the event, see the official SKCC page:

<https://www.skccgroup.com/k3y/k3y.php>

The picture shows my collection of Morse Express Christmas Keys.

If you've participated in previous years, and feel up to the challenge, you can even volunteer to operate K3Y for an hour or two. If you are working on climbing the SKCC ladder towards your senator level, that is a great chance to get a lot of

contacts in a short amount of time.

This is not an event just for experienced operators: If you are new to CW, this is also a great opportunity to practice listening and sending, and you might be surprised by the progress you can make over one month.

I hope to hear you on the air when I chase the K3Y stations across the world.



JANUARY VHF CONTEST

MIKE KENNERKNECHT, N2MAK, DIRECTOR

The ARRL January VHF Contest will be January 18-20, from 1900 UTC on Saturday to 0359 UTC Monday. While it might be cold outside, things really get cookin' on 50MHz and above. But don't take my word for it—according to the ARRL, “the 2024 January contest had what may have been the greatest January contest Es opening ever; at least since the 2012 contest.”

The contest is pretty simple. Hams in the US and Canada aim to work as many amateur stations in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Any legal mode is permitted and there's a lot of activity on CW, FT8, and phone (SSB and FM).

I really enjoy portable operations and always look to combine the VHF contests with Parks on the Air (POTA) and/or Summits on the Air (SOTA), whether it's operating from a single location or multiple ones as a rover. Plus it's always fun and a good learning experience to operate on different bands and modes than you do more commonly. Earlier this year, I was able to make my first contacts on 1.2 GHz (23 cm) and 900 MHz (33 cm) with a pair of rare Alinco HTs I borrowed.

Getting on the air for the VHF contests doesn't need to be complicated and you only need to be a Technician to operate on 6 meters and above. In all but one of my VHF contests I've operated at 10 Watts or less with an Icom 705 and various HTs. Unlike with HF, it's much easier to get gain in antennas for higher frequencies, since the wavelengths are so short.

There are plenty of inexpensive options for HTs and mobile transceivers that can get you on 2 meters, 1.25 meters, and 70 cm. And basic antennas like roll-up J-poles, speaker wire dipoles and tape measure Yagis can be constructed cheap and easy. These are actually what I have used in multiple VHF contests.

It's also worth noting that in Western New York (and Southern Ontario) we have a tremendous and growing group of enthusiasts for VHF and above. You might be surprised that it's not difficult at all to make contacts in the contest. And if you are really interested in getting into the higher bands, the Rochester VHF Group can be a great resource.

But perhaps most importantly, the VHF contest is a great way to get active on the VHF, UHF, and even microwave bands. If we don't use the bands, we lose them, like we did with a portion of the 1.25 meter band. In fact, the FCC is currently considering a petition for changes to the 900 MHz band.

I hope to get you in the log during the contest. While I haven't finalized my plans for it yet, you can be sure I'll be out in a park or up on a summit having a blast. If you're interested in participating, you can find out more at <https://www.arrl.org/january-vhf>.



A WOODEN RADIO

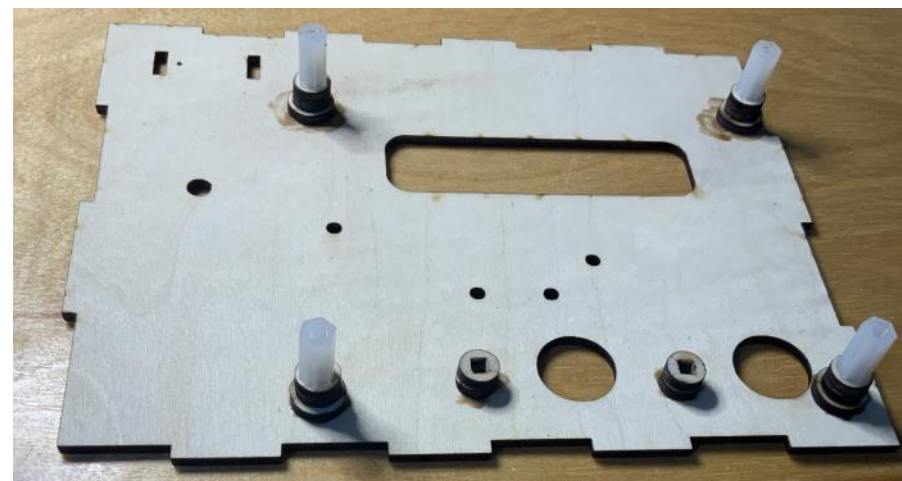
FOREST SHICK, WA2MZG

A few years ago I purchased a QCX 5 Watt CW Transceiver Kit from [QRP Labs](#). (The model I purchased is no longer in production.) It makes a nice, small, 40M CW radio and it was easy to build and tune up. I never purchased or made a housing to put it in, I just mounted it to a piece of aluminum with my small antenna tuner (ZM-2ATU) and a straight key and magically it worked.

Along comes the laser / engraver I mentioned in 2 previous articles ([July, August](#) 2024). I had to experiment with making a nice housing for the QCX from wood. Yes, I could have made a box from plastic with a 3D printer - been there - done that - on other projects.

The QCX has 4 controls: volume, frequency and 2 multi-function pushbuttons. The pushbuttons are much lower on the PCB than the other controls.

The project involved making a housing, adding a straight key and making the 4 controls accessible from the front panel.



The part drawing for laser cutting

The back side of the front panel showing 4 wooden standoffs and 2 wooden



The pushbutton extension

sleeves for push button extensions. The extensions slide inside the sleeves to



The back side of the frequency and volume knobs

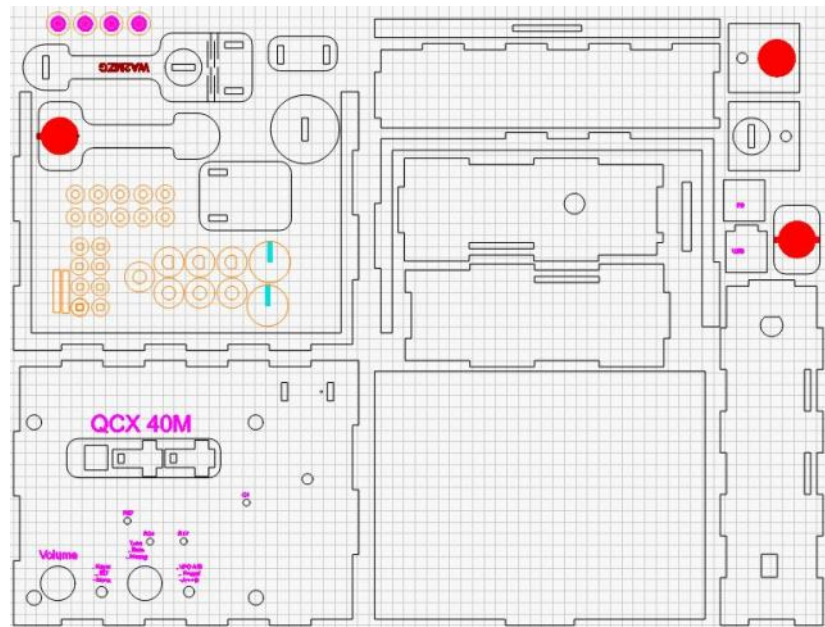


The beginnings of a straight key that will become part of the housing.

activate the pushbuttons on the PCB.



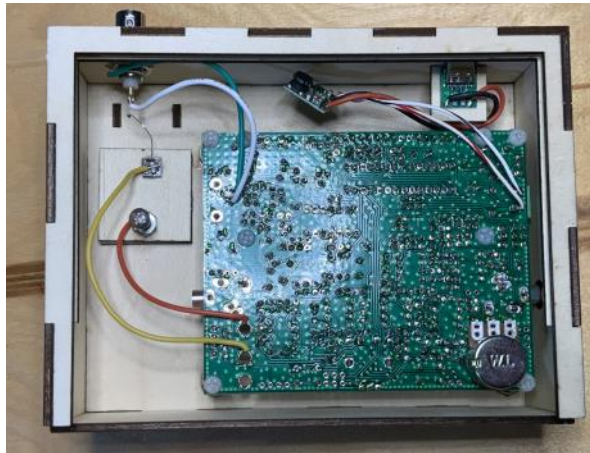
The left side showing the headphone jack and volume control knob on the top surface



The following is a picture story of my Wooden Radio.



The rear panel with a BNC for the antenna and USB C port for power



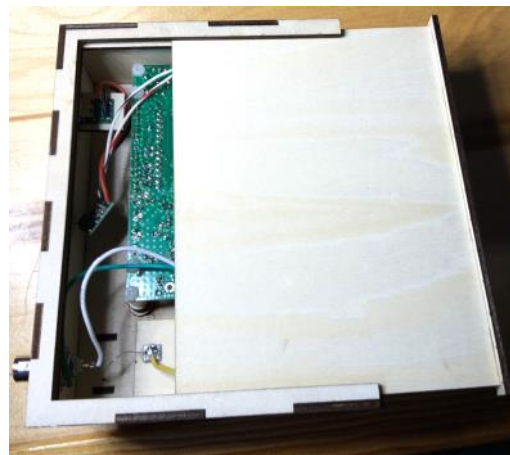
The inside of the box showing the BNC, a 5V to 12V power converter, USB C connector, the straight key contact adjustment screw and the QCX board



Side view of the straight key mounted to the front panel



Looking carefully you can see the contact adjustment screw on the left with the contact immediately above the screw. The wire on the right connects the contact to the QCX board.



The bottom cover slides into place



View showing front edge of bottom cover. (Lower edge of the picture.)



QCX powered by a cell phone battery pack. The battery pack provides 5V and the converter in the housing boosts the 5V to 12V.



At 12V the QCX only produces 3W of output power.

The W1 wattmeter from Elecraft is in a 3D printed housing.



The completed Wooden Radio

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES News

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)® is an amateur radio public service organization based in Monroe County, New York, and is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. Monroe County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a program of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. We participate in training and emergency exercises so that we can serve other agencies during times of communication failure.



The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month except in July, August, November and December. The meeting in November is on the third Thursday to avoid interfering with Thanksgiving. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The meetings are in person at 6:00 PM at the county EOC in even months and at the Red Cross in odd months. They are also available via Zoom. Please check our website for any schedule changes. Prospective members can request an invitation by email to: secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org.

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, on the W2ARM 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL and 444.45 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz PL repeaters. Our club callsign is WB2EOC. On nights when we hold our regular meeting, the net is at 5:30 PM.

Web: www.monroecountyemcomm.org

Facebook: Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Twitter @MCARESNY

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

Please check our website www.rdxa.com for up-to-date information regarding meeting locations and requirements, if any.



XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club meets the second Thursday of the month (except July and August). 7PM at the Webster Recreation Center. Zoom meeting info, when available, is sent out to our mailing list. How to subscribe and up-to-date information is always on our website at <http://xarc.us>. We have a System Fusion repeater south of the city on 145.290, and another on 444.825 west of the city that is also D-Star capable. Both are also analog capable with 110.9Hz tone. All are welcome.

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, ARAST

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Emergency Communications Center on Harris Hill in Big Flats, next to the National Soaring Museum. Our Chemung County ARES (CCARES) organization meets the first Tuesday of the month at the same location. Both organizations serve amateurs in Chemung County and the surrounding counties in New York and Pennsylvania. All are welcome to attend our meetings, which begin at 7 p.m. All monthly meetings are held both in person and on Zoom.

Don't forget to check out our repeaters when you visit the area. N3AQ 147.36(+) and the W2ZJ 146.70(-) are the principal 2-meter repeaters, both with a PL of 123.0. The latter can also be accessed via Echolink node 574415 with the call sign KD2QND-R. A full list of repeaters in the Twin Tiers area can be found at http://www.arast.info/arast_website/public/repeaters.php.

We also invite you to check out our 6-meter net on Wednesday evenings at 9 p.m. local time on 50.200 MHz USB. We welcome participation from RARA members.

COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

If you are interested in being a part of this forward thinking and active club, visit us at a meeting or join us on one of our weekly nets. We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7PM. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9PM (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30PM on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in!

DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Wayne County EMO/Sheriff's Office 7376 State Hwy 31 #1000, Lyons, NY 14489. Doors open at 7 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Announcements will be made on the 146.685 repeater. The Drumlins ARC website address is <http://drumlinsarc.us/>

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communication modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and publicly accessible DSTAR hotspots, Yaesu System Fusion systems on non club repeaters and DMR systems through repeaters and personal hotspots. DCAP members meet for breakfast at 7AM nearly every Saturday morning at Rikki's Family Restaurant in the village of Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL tone of 110.9Hz.

KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, KLARA

Our meetings are always the 2nd Wednesday. Dish to pass meal at 6pm with meeting at 7pm. All are welcome.

Don't forget our daily Monday thru Friday 75 meter HF net. Check in at 7:45am starts 8:00 am on 3.896. Always a great way to start your day.

73, Belinda KD2BPJ

ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Orleans County ARC meets every 2nd Monday of the month at the Orleans County Emergency Operations Center, 14064 West County House Road, Albion, NY 14411. Doors open at 6:00PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is welcome. Program topics vary from month to month.

The club has an open two-meter net every Tuesday night at 9:00PM local time on the club repeater, WA2DQL/R (145.27 -600KHz offset, 141.3 tone). Everyone is welcome to check in.

See the club website <http://ocarc.us> or contact club Secretary Ron Craig, N5BNO for more information.

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

You are invited to
join us on-line &
on-the-air! We're
here to help you to
use the license that
you worked so hard to get.



Check out what we do by visiting our
website at <http://RVHFG.org> to start.

Join our e-mail group by sending a message
to RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io.

Join our weekly on-the-air nets on SSB:
2 meter band - Monday 9 PM 144.260 USB
6 meter band - Thursday 9 PM 50.205 USB

No VHF SSB radio (yet) to join the nets?
Log-in to Echolink ka2ene-L #23426

We can help to answer the question, "What radio
should I buy?" Here's a list of HF+++ radios, those
with the HF bands and at least three VHF bands,
giving you access to all sorts of VHF fun. Research
each one to see which serves you best. Ask
questions on our email list. We're here to help!

Yaesu FT-100D	Yaesu FT-817	Yaesu FT-818
Yaesu FT-847	Yaesu FT-857	Yaesu FT-897
Icom IC-706MKIIG	Icom IC-7000	Icom IC-7100
Icom IC-9100	Kenwood TS-2000	

Some are older models and some are newer models,
but all provide access to the 6 meter, 2 meter, and
70 centimeter bands using both traditional FM and
the exciting narrow-band SSB mode that supports
unexpectedly long-distance (100's of km's routinely
and 1,000's of km occasionally) VHF communication.
These are good all-around radios no matter what
club you end up affiliating with later. We hope its us.

SKENOH ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club and meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM. The next meeting will be our annual Christmas Party. Location, date, and time to be determined. There will not be license testing in December.

SIARC is also holding a Health and Welfare NET Monday through Friday each week at 2000 hours on the SIARC 146.820 repeater (located in Canandaigua, NY), Tone 110.9. This net is to pass along general information and keep hams in touch. All hams are invited to participate.

73's

Steve Benton

WB2VMR

Ontario County RACES

Radio Officer

ARES Emergency Coordinator

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

The current club officers are Bob Odell, N2BZX - President, Bob Shewell, N2HJD - Vice President, Jay Stewart, W4JPS - Secretary, and Jerry Powell, KC2YSY - Treasurer / Membership Chairman. RRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site using PayPal. www.k2rra.org

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

20 Years Ago – December 2004

Introducing the program for this month was John Gilly W3OAB/2, and we're assuming he got all of the details correct as he was also the presenter for the evening with the topic being Optical Processing of RF Signals. John tweaked our interest by telling how he will demonstrate a RF Spectrum Analyzer using nothing more than a crystal and a laser beam of light. There will also be plenty of gizmos to pass around the audience, promised Mr. Gilly. As is often the case with the December meeting we find that gathering a combined meeting with the Rochester Amateur Radio Association and the Kodak Amateur Radio Club, this year being hosted by the KARC at their Bldg 28 location, aka Theater-on-the-Ridge at the corner Palm Street and Ridge Road West.

Continuing where he left off last month, we read and enjoyed Larry Wallnau's (W2ZEY) long two-page report on last month's meeting, the annual RARA Auction. Larry's highly detailed report covered many of the highlighted items up for bid, their sources and the antics of auctioneers Dick Goslee (sk) KG2I and Ed Gable K2MP. Two large photos of the event were also published.

RARA President Brad Armstrong W1YX, continued his "Prez Says..." column by announcing and affirming the addition of Tim Magee WB2KAO, to the position of RARA Vice President. Many were unaware that the position was not filled as a result of the last elections and Brad Armstrong was assuming both positions until a resolution could be found. "Tim (Magee) has already proven capable of and well-motivated to do the duties of the VP" wrote President Armstrong W1YX, as he announced the position being picked up by Tim Magee WB2KAO. Brad continued by writing that a record high income into RARA's treasury came in from earnings at the just completed auction in the amount of \$1800.00, where \$125.00 was earmarked for the Education fund and \$30.00 to the Scholarship fund. In closing his column Brad encouraged the continuation of already generous member donations to the RARA's support of the Monroe County Library ARRL book donation fund.

Peter Fournia W2SKY, wrote in this issue to announce the planning is complete and forces are in place to make the December 27-30, 2004, Ham Display at the Rochester Museum and Science center's Holiday Science and Technology Fair. This active, manned display is a favorite of many visitors to this annual event and has been supported by RARA volunteers for several years. Ned Asam W2NED, took the lead for the HF station activity, complete with antenna installation, while Peter Fournia W2SKY, did the same for the numerous hands-on exhibits.

Dick Goslee (sk) KG2I, recovered from the previously discussed RARA Auction, wrote with words concerning the then popular and well used RARA Directory. Dick, the producer and editor of the Directory, asked that all members review their published data and report any errors before the upcoming 2005 publishing

date. Unknown to me was the ability to publish two addresses, one for your Winter QTH and another for your Summer hideout! Nice feature.

Dick Goslee just kept on clicking at the keyboard and continued by wearing his RARA Treasurer's hat and wrote a thank you to forty-one of you, the members, who added a little more with their membership renewal checks with an extra bit of cash. But wait, there's more, Dick went on... the fourth annual RARA Scholarship fund is currently running and if you point your donation excess to that it becomes Tax Deductible. (Ed – In 2004, ask today if that is still true)

With regret it was reported that Thomas Cordaro KB2GWB and Robert Lauzon K2RL (WB2NSD) were reported as Silent Keys. Bob Lauzon will be remembered as an early leader and advocate of the RARA Licensing classes as well as his founding of the K2JD Engraving Team and as a Past President in 1973/74. There were no Want Ads in this issue, but if you needed the help of an attorney, Sherwood Snyder W2KFU was your man. In the 1940's and as late as the 80's, Sherwood always donated his time and expertise to local ham groups and wrote the By-Laws for RARA, RDXA, Rochester VHF Group, the AWA probably the RRRA and a few others. He is missed.



the **RaRa Rag**

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 57

DECEMBER 2004

NO. 4

Annual December RaRa/KARC Meeting: Optical Processing of RF Signals

John M. Gilly W3OAB/2

By now we are all familiar with the promise and fulfillment of optical communications. There are fibers everywhere and light is carrying an ever increasing amount of communications traffic because of its enormous bandwidth. In addition, we've been hearing about the field of optical computing and how the future will bring such devices.....desktop devices doing math with beams of light. At the combined December RaRa/KARC Meeting, I will present a very basic demonstration of the "Optical Processing of RF Signals". We will explore the rudiments of constructing an RF Spectrum Analyzer with nothing more than a crystal and a laser beam. There will be an actual demonstration of functional hardware and plenty of gizmos to pass around the audience.

[Editor's note: As always, the combined RaRa/KARC meeting will be held at Kodak's Theater on the Ridge. Parking arrangements will be different this year, so check the announcement on the RaRa website for details. - L.W.] www.rochesterham.org

**RaRa
MEETING**
December 3, 2004
7:30 PM
Building 28 Kodak Park
(Theater-on-the-Ridge corner of
Palm St. & Ridge Rd West)
Optical Processing of RF Signals
Presented by
John M. Gilly W3OAB/2

RaRa 2004 Auction a Success

Larry Wallnau W2ZEY

RaRa held its annual auction at the November 5th general membership meeting. Ed Gable, K2MP, and Dick Goslee, KG2I, were the tag-team auctioneers for a standing room only crowd. As last year, there were some fine pieces of equipment, some great deals, and yes, some oddities. And as you would expect, Ed and Dick traded one-liners (and two-liners) to keep us all chuckling. From sales commissions and donations, the RaRa take topped \$1800. Many of the best deals were obtained between 2300 - 0000 EST



**Dick Goslee, KG2I,
hawks a Heathkit
SB-series station.**

The first bids set the tone of the auction. Dick presented a Heathkit SB-series station, including the transmitter, receiver, monitor scope, a bug and a straight key.

CONTINUED AUCTION PAGE 3

This month's meeting was the popular joint venture with one of the several Kodak Amateur Radio Clubs, this month with the Kodak Park ARC and held at Building 28 on Ridge Road West. The December 7th meeting brought from Ch 13, WOKR TV, a well-known weather forecaster by the name of Bill Peterson who spoke on the subject of Weather Radar. Bill was introduced that evening by RARA member and WOKR's Chief Engineer Bob Erskin (sk) W2NVZ.

Writing for RaRa's Social Committee was it's Chair, Mr. Dave Bernheisel N2DPF. Dave reported that the first RARA Social Event for the year would be an indoor/outdoor Winter Family Funfest. Future events planned an evening at the Planetarium.

Readers heard from Ed Holdsworth (SK) N2EH, who wrote an article telling of the fifteen public service projects that represent 3,000 man-hours of volunteer Radio Amateur activity providing direct help to our community. Holdsworth, in his RARA Licensing Class Leader role, revealed many changes in his organization that included Ed Gable, K2MP, assuming the teaching role for General/Technician Class theory. Bud Young (sk) WA2UGE and Russ Foster NE2B, took over teaching five and thirteen WPM code.

After teaching comes evaluation in the way of License Exams where John Schooley (sk) K2NC, headed that team. They have already scheduled their examination sessions through the first half of 1985, where Al DeBlieck KW2X took care of coordinating examinees and test times. At this time RARA was using the Metroplex VEC system.

Harold Smith (sk) K2HC, RARA Hamfest Chairman, announced the 1985 Rochester Hamfest times and places are firm and exhibitors are being scheduled. The three day event is scheduled for May 17, 18 and 19 and the event will be the Rochester Hamfest and Atlantic Division ARRL Convention. Programs will be firmed up next month through the services of the new Hamfest program Chairman George W. Hippisley K2KIR.

Sadly, it was reported that a true Old Timer, Jerry Fink W2TTQ, became a Silent Key. Active pre- and Post WW2 in many RARA activities in the formative years after 1931. He was a Life Member of RARA, a Past President in 1947/48 and operated a Hi-Fi Audio and Ham Radio store on Clinton Avenue for many years. From the Want Ads you could buy Collins 75A4 and R-388 from Don Taylor KB2BU. Huether Communications, Inc., 426 Ames Street, Rochester. remained a faithful commercial advertiser.



the RARA RAG

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 37

DECEMBER 1984

NO. 4

RaRa Meets at Kodak Park Dec. 7th Bill Peterson of WOKR-TV To Speak on Weather Radar

At the December meeting of RaRa to be held jointly with the Kodak Park Club, we will have the honor of presenting Mr. Bill Peterson, Chief Meteorologist at Channel 13, WOKR-TV. Bill will be speaking to us and, by way of video tape describing to us the workings of weather radar. Channel 13 is one of the few television stations to have installed its own weather radar equipment. The closest NOAA Weather Service is in Buffalo. Bill promises a great show (weather permitting!).

In order that Bill may get back to the Weather Center in time to prepare his 11 p.m. forecast, the program will start promptly at 8 p.m. Any business will be transacted after the program.

According to Bob Erskine, W2NVZ, Channel 13 Chief Engineer, Bill is an avid computer buff and is very technically oriented and should be able to answer any questions we may have for him.

Remember, this meeting will be held at the Kodak Park Recreation Building (building 28) on Ridge Road, two lights west of Lake Avenue. Park in the lot directly in front of and across the street from the entrance. Kodak ARC members will direct you to the meeting room.

RRRA MEETS AT PLANETARIUM DECEMBER 21st

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association will present its 4th annual *Family Night at Strasburgh Planetarium* Friday, December 21st. A short meeting will be held before the starshow at 7:30 in one of the Planetarium meeting rooms. The Christmas Show will start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$2.50 for adults, and normal child and student prices will prevail.

This should prove to be a good Christmas outing for the family – Let's see a good turnout!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Coming Social Events

by Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF

The Social Committee is planning two major events for 1985. The first event, a day-long indoor/outdoor *Winter Family Funfest* will be held on Saturday, February 9th at Mendon Ponds Park.

We have some ideas for the menu and activities, but I am sure that each of you knows the one unique thing that would make the event right for you. We can't read your minds, so we would be grateful for any input via phone, letter, in person, or even radio! We want to have something for everyone – A warm fire for eyeball QSO's, hot food and drink, activities for young and old, hams and guests. More details and ticket information will be at the meeting and in next month's *Rag*.

The second date to reserve is Saturday, June 1st. You guessed it – the annual RaRa Picnic. If you have any suggestions regarding the Picnic, please let us know.

CODE PRACTICE ON 43/03

The S.A.R.G. Repeater Group (146.43/147.03) will be holding code practice on 2 meters, on Wednesday evenings, beginning November 7, at 8 p.m. We will have 7 wpm, 15 wpm, and 22 wpm QSO's.



RARA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

OFFICERS

President: Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ	(585) 766-5631	president@rochesterham.org	Treasurer Brian O'Connor, KA2CGB	(585) 721-2346	treasurer@rochesterham.org
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Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)

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XRX Amateur Radio Club

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Rochester Makerspace

David Duckles: rocmakers@gmail.com

FEBRUARY RAG DEADLINE

JANUARY 15, 2025

RARA MEETS AT 7PM ON THE FIRST

WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

NOTE - JANUARY 2025 MEETING IS ON

JANUARY 8

JOIN US IN PERSON

OR

ONLINE AT:

[https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/
register/4296809421972006233](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4296809421972006233)

CONTACT WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG FOR SUPPORT

Rochester Area Repeater Listing

THE RARA RAG

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